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TO MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP

Some of the ways to get best service from the vacuum cleaner were brought out recently in vacuum-cleaning studies made by State experiment-station workers.

One test at the Washington State Experiment Station showed the value of a clean bag in efficient dirt removal. Two machines of the same make, but one with a clean and one with a dirty bag, were used on alternate strips of the same rug. The machine with the clean bag removed 12 grams of dirt. The one with the dirty bag removed only 1 gram. But when the dirty bag was emptied and brushed clean and the machine run over the same surface it had previously covered, 11 grams of dirt were removed. The investigators who made this study reported that machines clean best if the bag is emptied after each using and brushed inside and out once or twice a month, but they advise against washing the bag, because this spoils the finish which helps to make the bag dust-proof.

How fast the cleaner moves over the rug also was found to affect the amount of dirt it could carry off. The Washington study showed that a speed of slightly over a foot a second was more efficient than a faster speed.

Other interesting findings: A cleaner that does a good job on one kind of rug may be expected to do it on other kinds; the wear a rug gets from vacuum cleaning is very slight compared to the wear from actual use; machines using both suction and a brush are some of the fastest cleaners.

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